

The NORTHERN HEROES. 35

Claimes all Returns that Gratitude can pay.
I entreat you, therefore, to enlarge his Fate,
And make him happy with my dearest Child.

Czar. They have my glad Consent; and may
The Pow'rs above reward and bless 'em.

Gil. O Happiness! beyond my utmost Hope.

Eli. May Blessings crown the royal Head that
gives it.

Czar. Now, *Dolgoruki*, let's pursue true Glory.
We'll range the World, and find out ev'ry Art,
That can improve the Mind, or mend the Heart;
With choicest Blessings store our native Land,
That ev'ry Nation shall admiring stand;
While my glad Subjects Science shall revere,
And Commerce fix her golden Empire here.

(*Exeunt.*)

F I N I S.



96.6.

JP 4

THE
NON-EXISTENCE
OF A
Popish Pretender

To the CROWN of
GREAT BRITAIN, &c.

Fairly, candidly, and impartially proved from
the authentick Records of those Times, when
that *Pretender* was created; with a very par-
ticular Account of that whole Imposture by
LEWIS XIV. in Conjunction with JAMES II.
then King of *ENGLAND*.

WITH

Some Advice to all Protestants in general, but more
particularly to those of *England*.

By an *OLD BRITON*.

Sublata causa, tollitur effectus.

L O N D O N:

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MAR 12 1937



THE
NON-EXISTENCE
OF A
Popish Pretender
TO THE
Crown of GREAT BRITAIN, &c.



AS too many of the good Subjects of *England* are under great Apprehensions of an Invasion in behalf of a Popish Pretender, and these Fears are increased by the late Successes of *France*, whose Agents, in Disguise, are everywhere busy in magnifying those Successes, as well as the People's Fears; it will not, I hope, be unreasonable to revive the History of those Times when this Pretender was created, and to show by the then publick, as well as private authentick Records, the original Scene of that Imposture; by which it will manifestly appear, the great

Share *Lewis XIV.* then King of *France*, had, in Conjunction with *James II.* then King of *England*, in that Scene of Iniquity: For which Reason, it will be necessary to shew those Transactions that were preparatory to that great Design.

No sooner was King *James* settled in the Throne of *England*, but he set himself about what he had designed while he was at the Court of *France*, I mean, the establishing the Popish Religion in his Realms; in order to which, he imposed by Degrees on his Subjects, in their several Stations and Places, such illegal Things as in their Consciences, they conceived, could never be justified unto God, or the Kingdom. And yet they were pressed upon them (without Regard to their Consciences) by Loss of their Offices and Employments, and many other threatened Effects of the King's Displeasure: For,

I. Most of the Protestants were pressed to declare for a Repeal of all the Laws made for the Reformation of our Religion, and its Settlement.

II. All the Subjects were forced to submit to serve and obey those that were no *lawful Judges, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Lords Lieutenants*, and other Commanders; and all were threatened, vexed, and persecuted, that dared say, that such had no *lawful Authority*.

III. All the Subjects were commanded to suffer all the Actions and Offences of their
Lives,

Lives, and the Secrets of their Hearts to be search'd into, and their chief Interests and Freeholds to be judged by the Discretion of a few of the King's Creatures, called his *Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Affairs*, whose Commission was to proceed without, and against the Rules of our Laws, with a *non obstante* to all other Laws; and every Man was required to assist their arbitrary Powers, on Peril of their Censures, which extended to Imprisonment for Life.

IV. All our Ministers were required, under grievous menaced Penalties, to be the King's Criers, to proclaim in the Churches the King's Power to suspend at once the Force and Use of all the penal Laws, made four hundred Years before to secure the Rights of the Crown, the Freedom and Properties of the Realm, and the Profession of the Protestant Religion.

V. All Protestants were forced, by Fear of the King's Wrath, to suffer the Rights of the Crown, and the Freedom of the Realm against foreign Powers and Laws, to be publicly denied, and the Force of foreign Laws over them to be maintain'd; they were enjoined by the King to neglect their sworn Duty to God, the Crown, and the Kingdom; of prosecuting at Law those Treasons which they knew and saw to be daily committed, for which no Excuse could be made on Pretence of Liberty of Conscience in Christ's Religion.

VI. The Constables, and other Officers throughout the Realm, were forced to quarter
Irish

Irish and *Scots*, and other Soldiers in their Neighbours Houses, against their Wills, in the Contempt of the ancient Laws, and exprefs Words of the Statutes of this Realm.

VII. All the Freeholders were press'd to renounce their native and legal Freedom in their Choice of Members of Parliament.

VIII. The Freedom of the Cities and Towns were urged to yield up to the King's Will the Tenure of their Magistracies, and all their free Customs and Privileges.

IX. All the People were forced, by Fear of Punishments, *to suffer a Child to be declared Heir apparent of the Crown of Great-Britain*, which ought not by the known Laws of the Kingdom to have been acknowledged, until lawful Witnesses of his Birth of the Queen had been duly published to the Kingdom, as was necessary in that Case, when publick Fame had made him a Counterfeit; yet the People were forced to seem in their publick Prayers to present him to God as their Prince, and dared not ask who were the Witnesses of his Birth.

X. Many of their Juries were press'd to find their Neighbours Criminals, though in their Consciences they thought them innocent, as was notorious (among many other Instances) in the Case of those that made innocent Expressions of their Joy for the Justice that was done to the Seven Bishops; and many were forced to be tried in Matters about their Estates, by Fines, and their Lives also, by Juries return'd by *secret Contrivances and Nominations*,
contrary

contrary to the Direction of our Laws, being neither of the most sufficient, nor most indifferent of the nearest Neighbours to the Facts in question, nor by Sheriffs sworn as the Laws require, whereby the Course of the Kingdom's Justice was perverted, and the legal Government subverted.

That many of their legal Liberties, Benefits, and Means of Subsistence in their Churches and Colleges were taken from them by meer Will and Pleasure (a); and Processes and Prosecution by arbitrary Commissioners were threaten'd and begun against Numbers of them, without Guilt of the least Offence or Transgression against any of the Laws of this Realm.

(b) They were debarred and spoiled of the due free Election of their Magistrates and Officers in their Cities and Towns, (c) and pre-

(a) The Case of the Lord Bishop of *London*, of Dr. *Peachel*, Vice Chancellor of *Cambridge*, and Master of *Pembroke Hall*, deprived; of Dr. *Hough*, and twenty six Fellows of *Magdalen College, Oxford*; besides the Demyes outed from their Freeholds and Livelihood, and decreed incapable of any Preferment, only for keeping to the Law, the Statute of their College, and Oaths; the Suspension of near two Hundred Ministers in the County of *Durham*, for refusing to read to their People the King's Declaration for dispensing with our Laws, &c.

(b) *Viz.* the Summons of the Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Affairs to the Chancellors, Commissaries, and Arch-deacons of the Diocese, and of most of the Bishops, to return the Names of all the Ministers that did not read the King's Declaration, wherein they transgress'd no Law, Ecclesiastical or Civil.

(c) The City of *London*, and all the Cities and Towns Corporate, the King set up whom he pleased to name.

tended

tended Officers and Magistrates were imposed upon them, and turn'd out and put in at the King's Will and Pleasure, as they were found ready to comply with and serve his Popish Design, either ignorantly or corruptly.

That several of the Bodies Politick of their Cities and Towns were declared to be dissolved at the King's Pleasure, to terrify and subjugate the Minds of all the rest, and the Citizens and Burgeesses were thereby disfranchised, and divested of all their good Customs, Freedoms, and Privileges, if they did not comply with his illegal Commands, and treacherously surrender their legal Rights and Privileges to his Will, and that the legal Securities provided by the Kings and Kingdom in Parliament, against the Danger of their Religion and Liberty, (*d*) were, by the King's absolute Command, thrown aside, and made useless by Pretence of his Power to dispense with these penal Laws, notwithstanding the Subjects Right to them for the Protection and Safety of their Religion, Liberties, and Lives, whereby the very Foundation of all the Subjects Rights and Properties were undermined and shaken, and a new Claim

(*d*) See the Statutes of 25 and 30 *Car. II.* which were made expressly for the Protestants Security. So were those of 5 *El. I.* 13. *El. 2.* 23. *El. 1.* 27. 1 *Jac. 5.* *Jac. 1.* and the Stat. 25 *Hen. VIII.* 19, 20, 21. and many other ancient Statutes of *Ed. I.* *Ed. II.* *Ed. III.* and *Ric. II.* which were made on Purpose to secure the People from the Apprehensions of the Church of *Rome*; and King *James* declared, none of them should at any Time be put in Execution.

let up and maintained ; that the Subjects have no Right, Property, or Security against the Will and Pleasure of their King. And by colour of such dispensing Power, the Trust of the Kingdom's Defence and Safety by military Powers, were put into such Hands as were made incapable of them by many express Laws of the King's and (f) Kingdom's in Parliament, which then gave the Protestants sad Apprehensions of imminent Dangers, seeing themselves put into the Power of those that publickly professed to be in Union and Communion with the Church of *Rome*, which Church openly declared herself to be the mortal Enemy to all Protestants. And that she was bound on Peril of Salvation to seek the Destruction of all those who would continue constant to the *Protestant Succession*.

That contrary to express Laws of the Realm, an (g) Army of Papists and Mercenaries were maintained, and disposed through the Kingdom in full Peace, to the great Terror and Disquiet of the Protestants; and they were constrained to receive those Soldiers into their Houses, to sojourn there against their Wills,

(f) By the Statute of the eleventh of *James I.* and *Charles II.* profess'd Papists were made incapable to hold any Trust or Power in the Kingdom.

(g) See the Petition of Rights 3d. *Car. I.* the Statutes of *Car. II.* that declare the dispersing of Soldiers into the Country, and quartering them in the Subjects Houses, to be against the Laws and Customs of the Realm; and 'tis demanded as the Peoples Rights that they shall never be so burdened by Soldiers.

whereby they were deprived of their Peace and Security in their Families, and of their Converse with their Neighbours and Friends, and all the Advantages in their Ways of Living. The King also forbid the Execution of the ancient Laws of the Realm against diverse sorts of Treasons, and other most heinous Crimes, and all Statutes made five hundred Years before in relation to (*b*) Popes and popish Priests, tho' the Experience of the Papists in all those Ages show'd those Precepts and Practices to be so mischievous and dangerous, that they often complained in Parliament, they fear'd the Destruction of the Kingdom by them. (*i*)

The King so controul'd the Courts of Law in the Course wherein Justice ought to be administred, that the Judges, (tho' they served the Popish Designs) were turn'd out of their Places, Honours and Pensions, if they dared suffer the Laws to acquit those whom the King would have condemned, as appeared by diverse Instances, particularly his displacing Judge *Holloway*, and Judge *Powel*, upon the legal Acquittal of the seven Bishops.

(*b*) See the King's Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, that suspends the Execution of all penal Laws whatsoever in Matters Ecclesiastical, those that made it Treason to maintain the Pope's Power and Canons to be above our Laws, or to take Dispensation of Obedience to them.

(*i*) See the Statutes 35 *Ed. I.* 25 *Ed. III.* 72 *Ed. III.* 16 *Ric. II.* 3.

The

The Monarchy of *England* was founded on equal Freedom ; and the Civil Government was always of Right (*k*) free, because no Laws or Authorities ever bound the Persons and Properties of the Kingdom, save only those wherein the King and all the Subjects freely agreed ; every Subject's free (*l*) Consent being deemed by our Laws to be given personally by his Deputies to the enacting and repealing of every Law.

Therefore the Statutes of old, in Affirmance of the common Custom of *England*, declared, that Elections should be free from all Interruptions and Interpositions by the King or Pope ; and the Kings have bound themselves by the Statutes, no way to disturb any Electors in making their free Elections. (*m*)

No Commands, Promises, or Threats, no Prayers nor Sollicitations ought to be made unto the Electors by the King or the Pope, or any others : The Peoples Deputies (say the Laws) are to be chosen freely and indiffe-

(*k*) See 24 *Hen.* VIII. 12. 25 *Hen.* VIII. 21. 'tis declared that the Realm is free, and subject to no Laws but by their own Consent ; and that the King and Parliament representing the whole State of the Nation, have the Power to dispense with the Laws as they shall see Occasion.

(*l*) See the Statutes 1 *Jas.* I. c. 1.

(*m*) See the Stat. *Westm.* 1. 3 *Ed.* VI. the common Law is there declared, and the King bindeth himself not to disturb any Electors, to make free Elections. See *Car.* II. Parl. See 7 *Hen.* IV. 15 *Hen.* VI. 4. 9 *Hen.* IV. 8.

ently without Pre-engagement of the Electors, or Fear of displeasing the King, and without promises of Favour or Rewards to them. They are to be indifferent at the time of Election, and in such manner to proceed, notwithstanding any Request or Command to the contrary, otherwise the Elections are void and null.

But King *James's* various Attempts and Practices to overturn this Foundation of our Government were not to be numbered: For infinite Endeavours and Artifices were openly used, to destroy the Customs, Privileges, Charters, and Governments of all the Cities and Boroughs, by which four Parts in five of the Members of the Commons in Parliament were chosen by his sole Direction, to bring all those Bodies Politick, and their Magistrates and Officers to be dependant on the King's Will; and to be obliged, as his Creatures (not the Cities and Towns Trustees) to serve his Popish and arbitrary Designs, or to be turn'd out of their Places at his Pleasure; and such as were Papists, or more ignorant and corrupt, put into their Places. And more effectually to destroy the Government under Colour of Law, there were causeless Writs of *Quo warranto's* brought by the King against most of the Cities and Boroughs of the Kingdom; these were seconded by proper Instruments appointed to terrify the Magistrates of the Cities and Towns with the King's severe Displeasure, if they

they dared to insist upon their legal Right, and contest with the King at Law, to fright them with the intolerable Charge, that their legal Defence would cost them more than they could bear, and boldly affirming, that they could not hope to maintain their Customs, Privileges and Charters against the King, since he was resolv'd to have them at his Command. Then they tempted them with Promises of new Charters, if they would comply, and surrender their old Liberties into the King's Hands; and pretended that the Names of all that refused so to do, must be returned to the King's Attorney-General. There were Judges also prepar'd to damn the Pleas of such Cities and Towns as would stand upon their Right, and plead to the *Quo Warranto's*, as the Magistrates of London resolved to do, their Common-Council refusing to surrender their Liberties, notwithstanding all the Commands, Terrors and Intreaties that were used to them. They knew it was not in their Power to betray their City, nor in the King's Power to receive unto himself the Customs, Powers, and Privileges, which the Great Charter and the Common Law had given them.

But such Judges as would not judge that ancient Body politick (that had then holden their Customs above a thousand Years) to be dissolved, were turned out, and all the Freedoms and Privileges due to the Citizens and their Heirs, and to the City and their Successors, were declared by those Judges to be forfeited;

his

his Majesty's Instruments thereby preparing a Way (under the Shadow of the late King) to destroy the Government of all other Cities and Towns, by frightening them into Surrenders, or making a Precedent for Judgment against them ; and it had such Effect, that the Term of almost all those Bodies Politick was illegally changed, and the Cities and Towns brought to such forlorn Estate, that they had no Magistrates, or Officers, but at the King's Will, and during his Pleasure. And as there was such a total Subversion of the Freedom of the Government of the Cities and Towns, the Tenure of their Magistrates and free Customs being utterly destroyed, and those that did exercise their Magistracies being incapable to chuse freely and indifferently, and to return legally Members for Parliament ; so there were continual Attempts upon the personal Freedom and Indifferency of all the Electors of Parliament throughout the whole Kingdom: His Majesty personally solicited, and attached so many of them by his Smiles and Frowns in secret, to accept of such for Deputies in Parliament as would comply with his Designs, that his closeting of Electors became a By-word amongst the People. He made them consent to be barr'd of their Freedom in electing for Parliament, and in voting therein if they were chosen, to be a Test of their Fitness to hold their Offices and Employments of Profit and Trust, and to have Place in the Magistracy.

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The Lords-Lieutenants of all the Counties in *England* summoned, by the King's Order, the chief Officers and Gentlemen, in his Majesty's Name to flatter, or terrify them out of the Use of their Freedom in electing for Parliament ; and Marks of the King's Displeasure were put upon those that resolved to keep their Freedom and Indifferency to elect worthy and fit Deputies according to their Judgments and Consciences. But a strange Sort of Commissioners were sent by his Majesty throughout all *England*, to delude and affright the Electors into a Choice of such Members for a Convention (to be called a Parliament) as did engage to serve his Designs of abolishing all those ancient Laws and Tests, that were the only human Securities of the free Possession of our Religion, and the clearest authoritative Declarations of the Rights of the Crown, and the Liberties of the People. It then plainly appeared that the Ax was laid to the Root of our Civil Government, and a most certain Way paved to introduce the Laws and Religion of *Rome*. Yet, to convince the World in that Matter, his Majesty published a second Declaration, wherein he positively declared that no one should be employed under him in the Kingdom, who would not contribute to his Designs, and chuse such Members of Parliament as would do their Parts to finish what he had begun. He pronounced all that did refuse it to be neither good Christians, nor Lovers of their Country's Wealth and

and Power; and declared, that he begun his Form of Government suitable to those Principles, having turned out, by his absolute Will, many Civil and Military Officers throughout the Kingdom in Pursuance of that great Work. It was then out of Dispute his Majesty could not suffer any free Election for Parliament, whilst there were such Numbers of faithful Protestants to contest for the Elections, who could not in Conscience contribute to the Work he had begun: That was, upon Pretence of Liberty of Conscience, to allow his Majesty to surrender to the Pope the Rights and Freedom of the Crown and Kingdom, or to acknowledge, that the People of *England* ought, by the Laws of God and Christ, to be subjected to the Church of *Rome's* Laws and Jurisdictions in their Persons and Estates; that the Pope, and his Priests and Canonists should judge them by their Canons, in the Lawfulness of their Marriages and Contracts, and legitimate or bastardize their Heirs as they please; that the Disposal of their Goods and Chattels by their last Wills and Testaments, their Debts about Tithes, and their good Names and Bodies, on Pretence of Penances, should be in their Power and Will.

His Majesty's avowed Intent and Endeavours appeared, to free the Emissaries of *Rome's* Priests and Papists from the Punishments and Dangers of our penal Laws, against such manifest Attempts upon the Freedom, Rights, and Properties of this Realm, that his then
new

new established Popish Colleges, his Convents of Monks, his four Provincial Bishops, his numerous Priests might be authorized by him, without Force of Laws, to maintain the Church of *Rome's* Canons to be of greater Authority than the Laws of the Realm; to declare all Power in the Hands of Protestants to be unlawful; and all Right and Title to their Estates to be forfeited, by their being Protestants; to own and justify Dispensations from the Pope, with their Obedience to all such Laws of the Realm, as he and his Priests should dislike and professedly to hold Communion with the Church of *Rome*, the *French King*, and all foreign Papists, that declared themselves mortal Enemies to the Religion and Power of Protestants; and to contrive, with them, the Suppression, or Extirpation of them out of this Realm. This Work His Majesty so far carried on, that he suspended and stop'd the Execution of the Penal Laws against all the High Crimes, some whereof the ancient Papists of these Kingdoms made Capital; and declared all such Protestants as would not help finish it, not to be qualified as Christians, or *Englishmen*, for any Employment in the Kingdom, and therefore least of all for Members of Parliament, and hereby absolutely confining the Electors in their Choice to such only as his Majesty approved of. But that was not sufficient for his Purpose, but a total Abolition of all our ancient Penal Laws that were not agreeable to the new-invented Doctrines, which those Statutes show'd to have

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been

been abhorred by our ancient *English* Papists: The Design was to destroy the very Constitution and Form of Government of this Kingdom, from whence arose those Penal Laws against that Church's proud Domination and Usurpation of the Rights of this Crown and Realm. They knew our Histories and Records shew'd, that a free Parliament always made Complaints from Age to Age against their pernicious Claims of Power over our (a) Kings, our Laws, and Courts of Judicature and their Judgments; and against their Exactions, Impositions, Frauds, and Delusions of the People, with their superstitious Folly, whereby they gained a Third of the Revenues of *England*, (b) and drew so much Money to *Rome*, that they impoverished and almost ruined this Kingdom. They were sensible that they had been able to enslave to the Pope and Priests several of the greatest of *England's* Kings; that they could prevail with the King for Licenses and Pardons to them to transgress the Laws that the Parliament made to preserve the Subjects Rights and Properties; and that the Parliament only caused new Laws to be made (c) for declaring such Licenses, Dispensations, and Pardons of the King's void and null. They knew they had perswaded several of the Kings, that the Pope would absolve their Conscience from all Obliga-

(a) See the grievous Complaints of the Commons in 25 *Ed.* III. 4. Proviso; and 6 *Ric.* II. 5. 27 *Ed.* III.

(b) See the Parliament Roll, 4 *H.* IV. 1 *H.* V.

(c) See the Stat. 3 *H.* V. Stat. 4. 7 *H.* IV. 8.

tion by the Laws, and from Agreements, Promises, and Oaths to the Kingdom, (*a*) to maintain their great Charters, and all their Laws and Liberties; and that they prevailed upon one of them (*b*) to resign the Kingdom entirely into the Hands of the Pope, and to hold it of him by Rent; and they knew that a free Parliament only made and declared all such Dispensations and Resignations void and null, and justly required those Kings to renew their Oaths to the Kingdom to preserve their Liberties; and scorned (with Indignation) the Pope's Demands of his pretended Rent for the Kingdom, (*c*) declaring that their Kings had no such Patrimonial Right in the Kingdom, to subject it to any Power upon Earth.

They knew that freely-chosen Representatives of this Kingdom could not suffer such a Delusion to be put upon them, to be persuaded that due Christian Liberty of Conscience requires them either to allow the foreign *Romish* Laws or Canons to contest for Power and Place with the Laws of *England*, or to suffer any of the Subjects of *England* openly to profess themselves, their Persons, Marriages, or Estates to be subject to any Foreigner's Jurisdiction, and to depend on their Authority, Offices, and Sanctions, and the Exercise of them, for their eternal Salvation (which is in Truth to renounce

(*a*) *Hen. III. Ed. I.*

(*b*) See the Roll Parl. 40 *Ed. III. Num. 8. Clau. 3. Ed. I.* King *John's* Charter and Grant to the Pope, since burnt.

their Subjection to *England*;) or to own, and avow to have the nearest Union and Communion with Foreigners that openly profess themselves mortal Enemies to this Nation, and openly profess themselves bound in Conscience to seek and procure its Suppression and Destruction. They knew very well, that a free *English* Parliament very well understood, that no Doctrines of *Jesus Christ* ever intended to destroy the Natural and Civil Right of any Nation whatsoever; or allowed that a free People should depend upon their declared Enemies; therefore they were determined to overturn the very Foundation of our Civil Government, the People's free Choice of their Representatives in Parliament, and yet, as the safest Way, to keep up a Shadow of Elections for their intended Convention; which they effectually did, by forming Bodies Politic of Cities and Towns to Name and Return for their Deputies whom the King should name; (a) and by the specious Name of Liberty of Conscience, with Promises of Favour and Threats of Displeasure, to deceive and affright the other Electors to accept of whom the King should offer.

Thus far had King *James* the Second, in Conjunction with his Jesuits, carried on the Design to subvert the Liberty of the Protestant Religion in *England*, which had been formed and concluded on many Years before in the secret Councils of the Popish Princes, to

(a) *Cromwell* took upon him such a Power, to send for Men by his Letters without Elections.

root out of *Europe* the Profession of that Reformed Religion, and the People's Liberties. To mention the notorious, actual Prosecutions of that Popish Resolution in several Kingdoms and Dominions (x), the treacherous Falseness of those Princes in their Treaties, Agreements and Oaths, the Oppressions and Bloodshed, and all Kinds of Unrighteousness that was practised in order to that general Design :

The Instance of the *French* King is alone enough to be named, because he owned, and published to the World, his Part of the Design : And by comparing the Violences, Banishments, and Murders, done upon Protestants at the same Time by other Popish Princes, (as they were able) with his publick Confessions of his long-lay'd Design, we may make a true Judgment of the Whole.

The *French* King, by his Edict (y) of 1685, declared, that he entered into that Design from his coming to the Crown ; and it appears by that Edict, then prepared and agreed by his Council of Conscience, that all his renew'd Edicts in the Protestants Favour, his acknowledging and registering in Parliament their great Services for him, and his advancing many of them to the highest Dignities Military and Civil in his Kingdom, were done to

(x) That in *France*, the Dukedom of *Savoy*, the Kingdom of *Poland*, and many others.

(y) That Edict of 1685, is worthy to be read by every true Protestant.

flatter and deceive them (z) : He calls God to be Witness of his Designs and Resolutions at that Time to abolish their Religion by Degrees, and that he only attended this fit Opportunity for that great Work, as it was called by our King (*James II.*) and that Edict. In that Interim of his seeming Kindness to the Protestants, and solemn Professions to them, and some of the Protestant Princes, for their observing faithfully the Law and Edict of *Nantz*, that was like the Protestants *Magna Charta*, there was all possible secret Contrivances and Practices to prepare for that great Work, especially in *England*, that had long been the Head of the Reformed Religion, and the chief Terror of the King of *France* and the Popish World. He show'd his Fear, when he banish'd King *James* and King *Charles* in their Distress, rather than displease *Cromwel* ; he therefore applied his principal Counsels and Endeavours to distract and weaken the Protestants in *England*, and to persuade King *Charles* covertly to encrease and strengthen the Popish Party ; and for that End his dearest Confessor, the Jesuit *Le Chaiz*, was ordered to correspond with Mr. *Coleman*, that was then Secretary to the Duke of *York* ; and the Letters (a), con-

(z) 'Tis fit to see in that Edict, prepared as it was published, the Opinion they had of Protestants: That they are deemed incapable of having any Right to claim the Benefit of Treaties, Promises, or Oaths made to them by the Papists.

(a) See Mr. *Coleman's* Letters, printed and published by the Parliament's Command.

fessed

fessed by him before Thousands, show'd, that
 the Matter propos'd was to root out of the
 World the Protestant Religion, under the Name
 of the *Northern Heresy* : And ten times more
 of that bloody Design had appeared, if Mr.
Coleman's Letters, that were brought to *White-*
hall, had not been suppress'd and kept from
 the Parliament. Yet Mr. *Coleman*, on his
 Trial, confidently avowed before all People
 that bloody Design, and that he was only a
 subordinate Minister in it. It appeared by
 those Letters, that the *French King's* Mo-
 ney was to manage that Work; and the Let-
 ters brought into Parliament by the Lord
Mountague, acknowledged by King *Charles* to
 be written by his Order, prove to the World
 that he was contented to become the *French*
 King's Pensioner for five hundred thousand
 Pounds *per Annum*, to keep off the Meeting
 of Parliaments. It was also manifest to the
 World, that, about that Time, all Kinds of
 Artifices that the Jesuits Councils could invent,
 were used to pervert the Faith and Religion
 of the *United Provinces*, or to betray them in-
 to the *French King's* Power, or at least a De-
 pendance upon him. That an Agreement was
 between the *French King* and King *Charles*,
 to subdue and divide those Provinces, that they
 might no more be a Support or Refuge for
 the Protestants. The World had also seen
 Effects of the *French King's* Prosecution of
 the same Design against *Sweden*, and to such
 as he could prevail with in the Court of
 Bran-

Brandenburgh, and all other Princes Courts that adhered to the Protestant Interest. But his chief Expectance was upon the then King of *England*, and his Ministers and Counsellors (*b*), who concurred in all the secret Practices and Contrivances to weaken the Power of the Protestants, and to suffer the Greatness, Glory, and Terror of the King of *France* to be advanced: But he never openly and avowedly joined with him in that great Work against the Protestant Religion, he having deluded his Subjects with so many solemn Protestations of his Faithfulness to their Religion and Liberties.

The *French* King found by Experience, that the Parliaments had prevailed to break all the Measures they had taken together for the Destruction of the *United-Provinces*, by obliging him to a separate Peace with them, which had forced him to let fall his then spreading Plumes, and in crafty Ways to seek and solicit a Truce; and therefore he durst not during our King's (*Charles II.*) Reign put in Execution his great Work that he declared had been so long in his Heart. That by Torments, Murders, and all sorts of Barbarities to suppress the Professors, and Profession of the Reformed Religion, and entirely to raze and expunge the Memory of it, as his Edicts and his Practices declared to be his Intentions. The *French* King did not throw off his Disguise, and show him-

(*b*) *Charles II.*

self

self to be a ravening Wolf to his Protestant Subjects, till King *James II.* had publicly espoused the Popish Design, which he had together with him long prosecuted in the dark, nor until he (King *James*) had begun to invade the Protestant Liberties and Securities by putting the military Powers into Popish Hands, and to demand the Parliament's Consent to a Law (which they refused) to make his *Rapists* the Guardians of the Protestants Religion and Lives.

The *French* King knew that the People of *England* were then in no Capacity to interpose in Behalf of his Protestant Subjects, however he should destroy them; and, as his Edict said, being by the Truce without fear of a Disturbance, he intirely applied himself to that great Design; he sent his Dragoons to destroy the poor Protestants Goods, and to torment their Bodies, with more Cruelty and Inhumanity than was ever practised since the Creation; he resolved for his Glory (as his Clergy told him) to show himself the first and most illustrious of the Church's Children, and the Extirpator of the Protestant Heresie, which they told him was a more solid and immortal Title than he acquired by his greatest Triumphs. He then prosecuted that great Work, as *Saul* did to strange Countries, breathing out Threatnings and Slaughter; he sent to the Duke of *Savoy*, and as that Court complained, perswaded and frightened that Prince into a most unchristian and bloody Decree, to compel the most ancient Protestants

in the Valleys of *Piedmont* to turn Papists forthwith ; and they being faithful to their Religion, that Edict was pursued by the help of his Dragoons, and the harmless Protestants tormented, and murdered more cruelly than the worst of Vermin, (b) until they were utterly destroyed, and their Country given to the Papists.

✱ (c) That Court of *Savoy* seemed ashamed of that horrid Wickedness, and said for their Excuse, that the *French* King declared he would root out the Protestants by his own Force, and possess the Country, if the Duke would not have assisted him therein.

✱ But the Suppressing the Protestants in *England* had always been esteemed the principal Part of the Popish Designs to extirpate the Protestant Religion ; and therefore all the *Romish* Councils, Policies, and Industries, their Conspiraciess, Poysoning and Massacres, had been long employed about it, and had perfectly gained King *James* to serve their Designs ; they had united him with the *French* King, that their conjoined Councils, Treasures, and Strength, might finish their Work of bringing *England* into Subjection to their Church. Both the Kings were under the like Conduct, and our King proceeded in the same Method against us, wherein the *French* King had been

(b) See the Relation of it printed.

(c) See Doctor *Burnet*'s relation of it, by a Letter from his personal Enquiry.

successful to destroy the Protestants of his Kingdom. His first Attempt was to subvert our civil Government and Laws, and the Freedom and Being of Parliaments, just as the *French* King first invaded the Supreme legal Authority of *France*, which was vested in the Assembly of Estates. Our King, in Imitation of his Brother of *France*, strove to bring all Offices, and Magistracy of this Kingdom, that were legally of the Peoples Choice, to be solely and immediately dependant on his absolute Will for their Being, whether they arose from our Common Law, or were instituted by Statutes or Charters. He endeavoured to bring the Disposal of all Properties and Estates of the People, and their Lives and Liberties, to be at his meer Will, by a Perversion of the instituted Course of our Juries, and by Judges and a Chancellor fit for that Purpose, and every Moment dependant on his Pleasure. He endeavoured to make his Proclamations and Declarations to have as much Power over our Laws as the *French* King's Edicts; and after his Example he established a mercenary Army to master and subdue the People to his Will. Our King had the same Copy by which the *French* King wrote, to assure the Protestants of Grace and Clemency, giving them Promises of equal Liberty of Conscience with his Papists, in preferring to Offices and Employments those he resolved to punish and ruin, preventing Execution of the Laws, and in allowing the Liberty of Conscience in some Notions, and the

outward Forms of Worship in the Christian Religion, provided always that they had no regard to Conscience for the Substance of Christ's Religion in Justice, and Righteousness, nor stumble at complying with him, or assisting him in the highest Crimes against Jesus Christ, by invading the Rights and Liberties of the Kingdom, and assuming a forcible Domination to oppress whom he pleased. Which was a Subversion of the very Foundation of Justice and Love amongst Men, and by Consequence of the Religion preached and established by Christ. These Matters of Fact are self-evident, and demonstrated that those grievous Oppressions by our King were the Effects of the united Councils of the Popish Interest, whereof the *French* King was Chief. The Conspiracy against the true Religion and Liberties that then appeared in *England*, comprized all the Protestant Princes and States in *Europe*. *England* indeed was then first attacked as the principal Fortress of the Protestant Religion. If the three Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland* could be reduced to the Pattern of the *French* King in Government and Religion, and the Strength of them united against any single Protestant State or Prince they shall think fit to assault; if they could by Artifice keep the rest divided, there would be but little Hope of any long Defence of such a State. Nor did the *French* King seem unwilling to have the Popish Design in general against all Protestants, tho' more especially against *Eng-*
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land, known, when he allowed the Bishop of *Cosnac*'s Speech to him at *Versailles* in 1685 to be published, which Bishop was the Mouth of the Clergy of that Kingdom; he magnified the *French* King for suppressing the Protestants of his own Kingdom, and asks, what they might not then expect? *England*, said he, is just offering to your Majesty the most glorious Occasion that you can desire; the King of *England*, by the Need which he will have of Succour and Support of your Arms to maintain him in the Catholick Faith, will make you quickly find an Opportunity to give a Protection worthy of yourself.

It was very well known, before the *French* Clergy declared it by that Bishop, that the same Head that had contrived the Perversion and Destruction of so many Millions of the Protestants in that Kingdom, designed the Ruin of the *English* Religion and Liberty. But what surprized most was, that King *James* should suffer that Speech, (publish'd by the *French* King's Authority) to be translated and pass freely in *England*, and thorough the World. What can be thought of that King of *England*, who was content his Subjects should be told, that he must come under the Protection of a King of *France*, over whose Kings and Kingdom his Ancestors had so often triumphed?

The *English* Protestants then were convinc'd all their Hopes rested wholly in their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of *Orange*,
which

which Princess was the then declared Heir to the three Kingdoms; and they were very well assured no Artifices of King *James*, nor of the *French* King, would divert them from their steady Attachment to the reformed Religion, tho' all possible Endeavours were used by the King of *England* to prevail upon them, under the Sanction of Liberty of Conscience and *Magna Charta*, to suffer themselves to be fetter'd in their Accession to the Crown, with such Conditions as were obtained in Parliament in the Cases of Queen *Mary* and Queen *Elizabeth*. And so bold and confident were the Papists then, that they actually gave it out by their Priests and Emissaries, that their Highnesses had actually agreed to consent to a Repeal of all the Penal Laws: And a false Jesuit had the Front to whisper it as a Secret, that the Prince of *Orange* would declare it as soon as the Opportunity was seasonable. But after the King had sent many Messages to their Highnesses, who continued impregnable, it was given out with much Anger, that their Highnesses continued obstinate in their Errors, under Pretence of becoming popular with the Church of *England*, which the King declared they should repent. But while every one was wondering what new Measures the King had to propose to the Parliament, in lieu of their Highness's Consent to oblige themselves (when come to the Crown) to consent to a Repeal of the Penal Laws, so much desired by his Majesty, it was not long before it was rumour'd, that

that the Queen was with Child, and the Priests unanimously gave it out, that would set aside her Royal Highness's Right to the Succession, and impudently affirmed it everywhere ; and that miraculous Conception, the Papists declared, was obtained at the Request of the Duchess of *Modena* in Heaven, or Purgatory, and the Lady of *Loretto*, who had a fine Present for her Assistance in that wonderful Achievement.

The very Expectation of eight or nine Months that the Queen might bring forth a Son, was greatly for the Popish Advantage, if the Device should have failed by any unlucky Accident: It made a Stand for a Time of the Protestants of all Countries in their great Expectations from their Royal Highnesses; it raised triumphant Hopes in all Popish Countries; it strengthened the Papists Hands and Hearts to prosecute the Design vigorously, and prevailed upon many weak Protestants to make them believe a Succession of Popish Princes, and that Liberty of Conscience was only to be expected from them.

When the Story of the Queen's great Belly became universal, and that the Priests gave it out her Majesty would certainly bring forth a Boy, many of the most considerate Protestants being in themselves well satisfied a counterfeit Son was to be produced, they determined to watch every Circumstance relating as well to the pretended Pregnancy, as to the Birth, whenever it should happen. They knew very
well

well that those Priests maintained the vilest Wickedness to be lawful for their Church's Service, and that they had been notorious for Impostures and Forgeries of all Sorts. They once forged an eternal Gospel, as they called it, to support the Orders of the Mendicant Friars; the Priests contrived Queen *Mary's* great Belly for a counterfeit Heir to the Crown to have carried on their Catholick Cause; and as great publick Triumph and solemn Prayers for her great Belly were made at *Rome*, and in all Popish Countries, as was then made in the Queen's Case; but their Designs were unluckily cross'd when her Deliverance was expected, and their Joys and Prayers vanished in Smoak. Those Priests were Agents for the bloody and unnatural Usurpation of our *Richard III.*

A Priest preached at *Paul's Cross*, to make the People believe that King *Edward IV.* his elder Brother, whose Son King *Richard* had murdered, was a Bastard, not the lawful Son of *Richard Duke of York.*

It was a Priest's Invention and Management, to set up *Lambert Symnel*, a Baker's Son, against *Henry VII.* counterfeiting him to be Earl of *Warwick*; and laying Claim to the Crown, was proclaimed King in *Ireland*, and march'd into *England* with a good Army to maintain his Pretence.

And by the like Device, *Perkin Warbeck*, another Counterfeit, was set up against the same *Henry VII.* by *Margaret* Duchess of *Burgundy*, to be *Richard* the younger Son of
Edward

Edward IV. and made such a considerable Party in *Ireland* and *Scotland*, that bid fair for the Crown.

The Remembrance of these Precedents of Counterfeits, ought to warn all Protestants well to examine the Proofs that were made to establish the Title of the now pretended Heir to the Crown of *England*; which, for their Satisfaction in particular, and all others whom it may concern, I shall now produce.

I. There never was, or appeared to be, any reasonable Grounds to believe, that her Majesty had conceived a Child; she never had the first most natural, known, and common Sign of Conception; for her Majesty did not conceal it was with her after the Manner of Women during the whole Time of her pretended Pregnancy. It was well known it was so when she was on her Journey to the *Bath*, and after the King left her; and all the Industry after to hide them in their Seasons, proved ineffectual, because those Things came to the Knowledge of more than was privy to the intended Imposture. Her Majesty having not that natural Sign whereby Women usually conclude themselves to have conceived, from whence she could make a Reckoning; it seem'd by the King's Speech in Council, that their Majesties both thought fit to publish her Conception to have been at the Time of the Present to the Lady's Image at *Loretto*, at the King's Return to the Queen at the *Bath*; and it appeared pious and great, to make the Concep-

tion one of the Miracles of the Lady's Image, tho' it happened unluckily that they could not afterwards make the Time of her Conception, and supposed Delivery, to agree with Nature's most constant Time of nine Months.

2. There is another Sign and Testimony of a Woman's being with Child, that is, the sensible Stirring of the Child in the Womb, which was expected her Majesty should have shown with Joy, especially to those Protestant Ladies of her Bed-chamber, that doubted (as her Protestant Doctor, her then Physician) her being with Child, as far as they durst, when the Quickening of a Child was pretended and published through the Kingdom: It must have been a Pleasure to her Majesty (if it had been real) to have shewn the Motion of the Child in her Womb to honourable Matrons of her Bed-chamber, who might in all Respects have been lawful Witnesses of that Truth to a justly jealous Nation. These might have touched her Belly, and had been proper Judges, from their own Experience, of the true Motions of a Child in the Womb; and some of Consanguinity with the Heirs-apparent might have had that Favour, as our Laws and common Prudence directed, for removing any Scruples about the Truth of such a Thing. But however industriously her Majesty's quickening with Child was spread abroad, yet the feeling its Motions was never vouchsafed to any competent Witnesses of it, to give the suspicious Kingdom

Kingdom any Ground to believe the Queen ever was with Child.

3. The next visible and manifest Sign of the true natural Progress of a great Belly, is the Distension of all the Parts of the Body that incircle and encompass the Womb. Such is the Place and Manner wherein Nature hath prepared the Lodging of the growing Child in the Womb, that according to its Growth and Increase, and the Quantity of Liquors that are naturally and necessarily congested there, so all the circumambient Parts must gradually extend to make Room. There never was, nor naturally can be, an Extension only of the *Peritoneum*, or Rim of the Belly, to give Room to the Child. And in this all Naturalists and Anatomists agree, that in that Manner no Child could subsist, and be born alive. And all Men and Women know, that all the Parts that enclose the Cavity of the Womb swell regularly until the Time of the Delivery approach. But this necessary and natural Sign entirely fail'd in her Majesty ; for it was well known, and attested by the most skillful Matrons, that attended her Majesty on purpose, that the outward Parts of her Body, that encompassed her Womb, were of the same Proportion as at other Times, save only her Belly, which was copped up, and high, which look'd like a great Belly before ; but to those that viewed her Majesty behind, and on each Side, when she walked, they never could perceive the least Appearance in her of a genuine great

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Belly,

Belly, notwithstanding particular Care was taken to observe her Majesty till within a few Days of her pretended Travail. And for near four Months before the pretended Delivery, (those being the Months when the circumambient Parts swell most) her Majesty, contrary to her usual Custom, always withdrew herself from her Chamber, and retired into some private Room with two or three *Italians*, when she changed her Linen, and would never admit one Protestant Lady of the Bed-chamber to be with her at those Times, as she usually had done before. Those that were only capable of being proper Witnesses for her Majesty against common Fame (if Fame had belied her) those were all excluded from a Possibility of seeing whether her Majesty's Belly was truly and naturally great.

Nothing can be more manifest, than by the Circumstances taken as they ought to be in Connexion with each other, that nothing appeared of the natural Plainness and Simplicity that always accompanies Truth, in the whole Demeanour of her Majesty from the Time of her intended conceiving of a Child, to the Time of her feigned Delivery of the supposed Prince of *Wales*; the whole Transaction plainly shewed Trick and Design, to hide and smother Nature's Works, which ought to have been freely exposed to the World, if there had been any Truth in the Pretences to a Birth of so great Consequence. It was a Truth at that Time well known, that in the whole eight Months

Months and four Days, first reckoned to have been the Time of her Majesty's Pregnancy, or from the Time of her going to *Bath* in the new Reckoning, there never was any of those constant natural Signs in her Majesty to believe that she conceived a Child.

The Progress towards finishing this intended Imposture of a Prince of *Wales* was perfectly answerable to the Beginning. In the Preparation for her Majesty's supposed Delivery, there was no regard had to the Rules of natural Equity and Law, nor any Appearance of that open Freedom and plain Proceeding that ought to have shown that they did not fear the Kingdom or the World's knowing the Truth in that pretended natural Work of bearing a Child, wherein the whole Kingdom, and so much of the whole World was concerned. If the Customs and Laws of *England* had been consulted in that Case about the Preparations absolutely necessary to have been made for her Majesty's supposed Lying-in, the first of all Advices had certainly been to have given early notice to her Highness the Princess of *Orange*, and others in the nearest Expectancy of succeeding to the Crown, of the Time of her expected Delivery, and the Place where she intended to be delivered of such a Prince; that proper noble Matrons, and others, might have prepared themselves and attended there, and been present in their Behalf, which might have suppressed and silenced forever by their Testimonies, all Suspicions of Fraud and Imposture:

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But it is undeniable that no such Notice was given to her Royal Highness, or to any of Consanguinity with her, nor to any other noble Matrons of *England*; but such Artifices were used as might most conceal the Time, and intended Place of her intended Child-Birth: And such feigned Time had been published both by the King and Queen of her pretended Conception, that neither their Royal Highnesses, nor any of the Nobility could possibly foresee when the Tragi-Comedy (that was then said to be acted) did begin.

The Place where her Majesty was intended to lye-in was kept in such Uncertainty, and often published so variously, sometimes that it should be at *Richmond*, sometimes at *Windsor*, another time at *Hampton-Court*, that none of the Nobles of either Sex that were of Kindred and Friends of the Heir apparent, nor of the Protestant Nobility, could know how to prepare themselves for their Attendance on her Majesty, as was their Duty to their Majesties, her Royal Highness, and the whole Kingdom. But as the Publication of the Place was so often changed, and a Surprize in the Place was designed, so at last such a sudden, and seeming hasty Resolution was taken a Day or two before her pretended Delivery, that her Lying-in should be at *St. James's* (tho' none expected the Time to be nearer than three Weeks) that Commands were given for preparing her Lodgings there so hastily, that when her Majesty said on the *Friday* she would lie there on *Saturday*, and
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it was told her it was not possible her Lodgings should be ready, she then said she would lye there on the Floor. The Protestants confided in the Princess of *Denmark*, that she would have been a faithful Watcher for own sake, when the Time of her Majesty's Deliverance of her great Belly should come; but Care was taken to send her to *Bath* when she wanted astrigent Medicines, to keep her fourscore Miles distant, till the pretended Prince should be born.

When the first Notice was of her Majesty's passionate Declaration to lye at St. *James's* on the *Saturday* Night, no body could, or did conjecture that the pretended Prince was to be brought forth on the *Sunday* following, nor was there the least Whisper of it, or the least feigned or natural Sign of forerunning Pains of a Woman whose time of Travail was approaching; for her Majesty was late at Cards the *Saturday* Night, nor had she the least Appearance of any Indisposition then, nor was any pretended to have been the remaining Part of the Night: But the Event on the *Sunday* Morning show'd plainly that her Majesty's immoveable and fixt Resolution to lye at St. *James's* that Night was, because she was to seem to bring forth a Prince on the *Sunday* Morning; and there was a cunning Contrivance in the Time of the Day too, which was between the Hours of nine and ten in the Morning, that all or most of the Protestant Ladies might be at Church, and the Trick be done before they came home; and that the Midwife, Mrs. *Labady*, and the Favourite

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Mrs. *Tourain*, might have Freedom and Secrecy to act their Parts in the bringing forth a supposititious Prince. The Room also that was chosen for the Trick to be acted in, was very fit for the Purpose, and contrary to the Rules of common Prudence to be chosen in a Case suspected for setting up a fictitious Child, and ought to have been avoided, if their Meaning had been just and good : There was a private Door within the Ruel of the Bed, unseen by any that should attend in the Queen's Room, tho' at the Feet of the Bed ; and by that Door the three Confidents, the Midwife, Mrs. *Labady*, and Mrs. *Tourain*, brought into her Majesty's Bed what they pleased unseen by any Body in the Room. If they had wanted no secret Conveyance by that Door, common Prudence required it had been nailed up, to avoid confirming and encreasing the Kingdom's just and known Jealousies of imposing upon them a counterfeit Prince, when it should be known (as it afterwards was) that there was such secret Ways as made it so easie to be done by Confederation, undiscerned by others that were in the Room ; but it appeared by the Event, that privy Door was so necessary for the designed Imposture, that all the Transactions of it were managed by that Door, as was well known to all those Lords of the Council that were brought for a Show, not to see any thing that was done, but only to be seen in the Bed-Chamber with his Majesty, that their Names might be published (as they actually were afterwards) as Witnesses of the Queen's
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being delivered of the pretended Prince of *Wales*.

But now, my Fellow Protestants, I have brought you to a Groaning of as great Consequence as ever was to this and all Protestant Kingdoms and States, 'tis necessary I acquaint you what Company the Laws of this and all other Nations require to be personally present at so great and important a Delivery.

I. Women, to have testified their personal Sight and Perception of that very individual Child coming naturally out of the Queen's Womb; and Men, to have witnessed their immediate, free, and full Sight and Inspection of that very Child, by the Women's Assistance, in its pure and natural Nakedness; with all those known Marks and Tokens of his being just separated from the Womb, and from those other Things that are connatural to the Birth of a Child, the Effects of such Separation being there visible and impossible to be hidden.

II. That the Witnesses of these Matters should be proper Witnesses, suitable to the Greatness of the Persons and Things that were in Question, and to the vast Consequences that might ensue thereupon. Nature, or the first Light from God created in the Minds of Mankind, dictated the Equity of those first *Roman* Imperial Laws, that appointed those that asserted Filiation or Marriage, to prove them by fit, proper, and most unquestionable Witnesses; most of the Writers about those Laws serve themselves with these Words (*Matrimonium &*

Filiationem qui asserunt, debent probare per Testes idoneos omni exceptione majores:) They that alledge a Marriage, or a Child being, by virtue whereof they claim, ought to prove it by Witnesses that are above, or beyond all possible Exception. In this Case there ought much more to have been such fit Witnesses, that nothing could have been objected against them in any respect, either by *Englishmen* or Foreigners.

III. That the Witnesses of both Sexes had been fit and proper in respect of their Age; that the Women had been Matrons, whose Gravity and Sobriety were fit to attract a decent Reverence from the Men of the like Quality, in their exposing to them nakedly what was unavoidably necessary.

IV. That they had been fit and proper, in regard to a Sufficiency of Knowledge and Understanding in the Matters of Child-bearing, such as knew by Experience all those Works of Nature; in what Manner the Mother ought to be and are customarily treated in their real Travail and Child-bearing, and immediately after it; and what are the natural Symptoms in the Mother, that accompany their real bringing forth of a Child, before it hath been its natural Time of nine Months in the Womb, and at its natural Time; and also the Signs of a Child perfectly grown in the Womb, or brought to Light before its natural Time of Perfection. It was necessary that the Witnesses had been of such Knowledge and Experience in these Mat-
ters,

ters, or so sufficiently informed about them by others of Skill and Faithfulness, that it might have been evident to the Kingdom, that such Witnesses could not be imposed upon, deluded, or deceived by any cunning Artifices, to believe that pretended Prince to have been born of the Queen.

V. The general Rules of the Canon Law required, that the Witnesses had been publicly known to the Kingdom by their Persons, Names, Interest, Concern, and Employment. Our fundamental Laws have taken Care, that all Matters of Fact should be decided by Juries of the Neighbourhood where the Facts are done ; that the Witnesses that testify them may be known to the Jurors ; and Fraud is always suspected, if Persons unknown to the Neighbours of the Facts produced to witness them, unless there be manifest Reason for their Knowledge of the Fact, better than those that were near to the Place, and known to the Jurors. The Reason of our Law is of impregnable Force in the Case of this pretended Prince, that the Witnesses of his Birth should be Persons publicly known ; on whose Knowledge, Truth, and Credit, the whole Kingdom, and the Christian World should rely, in a Matter of such vast Importance : Obscure, unknown Persons, never publicly heard of in this or any foreign Kingdom ; and above all, obscure Foreigners, *French* or *Italians*, or others, ought not to be deem'd competent Witnesses to satisfy the Kingdom in that Fact. Indeed when Circumstances are duly consider'd, it will be evi-

dent that such, and such only was the pretended Testimony offer'd at that Time ; which infallibly damns all their Pretences, in regard there was a whole Kingdom, besides all the eminent foreign Ministers from Princes and States, that might have been elected, that were publicly known and heard of by all People ; and the Necessity of it was never so manifest, it being known to His Majesty and his whole Court, that the Queen's being with Child was not believed, either in *England* or foreign Countries.

VI. Common Justice required that the Witnesses had been fit and proper in respect of their high distinguishing Quality, or that they had been dignified with some of the highest Ecclesiastical Dignities, as Archbishops, or Bishops; or had been, by Birth or Creation, of the Degree of the greatest Nobility of the Kingdom, or that their extraordinary Wealth had raised their Reputation, and had been honoured with the great and eminent Offices of Trust in the Realm. For tho' our Laws are impartial to High or Low in hearing Testimonies of Witnesses in every Case, and therefore duly consider both the Circumstances of every Fact to be proved, and of every Witness and his Capacity to prove it ; our Laws indeed judge not Truth and Integrity to be annexed and intailed on Dignity, Nobility, or Greatness, yet they justly claim the Testimonies of Persons in great Dignity in the Church, or of Noble Birth, and raised Knowledge and Fortunes, and independent of others, to be more free from Exception
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(which that Case required) than those that are of weak Understandings, without the Advantages of excellent Breeding and Instruction; or indigent, and bound to depend upon the Favour of others for their Support, like Nurses and Midwives, and other Servants.

Therefore (*cæteris paribus*) the Capacity and Probability of knowing the Facts, and Indifferency of Witnesses of high or low being equal, our Laws justly allow more Weight and Credit to the Testimony of dignified and noble Witnesses, and such are therefore required to prove the Fact of a Prince's Birth, whereupon depends the Right and Title to a Kingdom, to exclude the apparent Right of one, and to put another into Possession of the same; because our Laws presume Persons of such high Degree to have greater Sense and Regard to Conscience, more Generosity and Contempt of Falshood, and more Tenderness of their Honour, than those of low Condition; and upon that Presumption, Noblemen's Affirmation, upon their Honour, are in many Cases accepted in lieu of their Oaths, unto which all others are obliged in the same or the like Cases; and for that Reason their Declarations of the Birth of a Prince, without their making Oath judicially, have been as certainly relied upon by the Kingdom, in the Descent of the Inheritance, without Dispute, as if they had sworn their Knowledge in the Forms of Justice. There are also other Regards for which our Laws put a greater Value upon the Testimony of Nobility of both
Sexes,

Sexes, about the Birth of a Prince, *viz.* they are most accustomed to the Presence and Conversation of the King and Queen; and such Ladies are justly presumed to be free from too awful Distances common to those of lower Rank, and to have more Confidence to approach the Queen in her Travail and bringing forth, as are necessary, that they may be ocular Witnesses that they have seen the Child in its very Birth; and such Nobles are free and bold to take such a searching View of the Child in its first naked Naturals, as may make them knowing Witnesses of its Birth, and absolutely certain they are not deluded with a supposititious Child. Such noble Witnesses are known to have greater Obligations upon them than others, to prevent all possible Questions and Disputes that may arise from Uncertainties about the Succession to the Crown, which may divide and destroy the Kingdom; and their great Interests and Posterities, their Conditions and Fortunes are supposed to be above Temptations by Bribes of Wealth or Honour, to connive at Falshood, or to stoop to serve a counterfeit Prince.

Upon all these Considerations, the Witnesses of the Birth of every *English* Prince ought to be of such high and noble Quality; and it was then known to have been more necessary, that the Reason of our Law had been exactly observed in the Case of that supposed Prince, than ever was since the Foundation of the Kingdom; there never was such Occasion to
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have stop'd the Mouth of common Fame, or to have shown the justly jealous Subjects that there were such fit and proper Witnesses, that a Prince was then born of the Queen, as were unquestionable, without any possible Exception, whose Faithfulness and Truth might be relied securely upon. Justice also required there had been competent, and sufficient Numbers of those fit and proper Witnesses, that it could not have been supposed possible that any Fraud had been put upon them. But instead of such fit and sufficient Witnesses of the Birth of this pretended Prince, you will find upon Examination, that there was none but such as were, by the known Laws of this Realm, and all other Christian Kingdoms and States, absolutely render'd incompetent Witnesses, even in a common Right of Inheritance.

i. Our Laws utterly disable all those to be heard in the Case that have received Gifts of Money or Honours, or any other Reward or Benefits. 'Tis the common Practice of our Law, that when a Witness is produced, the adverse Party may examine him upon Oath whether he hath had Money, or other Reward, or Gift, directly or indirectly, for or by reason of the Matter in question, or from the Party in whose Behalf he is produced to testify, or from any of his Friends or Agents. If he cannot acquit himself thereof by his Oath, tho' it cannot be proved against him, our impartial Law deems

deems such a Person not only partial in the Case, but corrupted and bribed, and unworthy to be heard.

2. Our Laws will not admit those to be Witnesses for the Birth of that supposed Prince of *Wales*, that had any Promise, Expectation, or Hopes of Advancement, Office, Place, or Benefit by or under him. Or that had Dependance on his Patrons, and Maintainers, that were in Danger of Damage and Loss by them of any kind.

3. Our good Laws will not admit as fit and proper Witnesses those that held Offices of Profit and Honour during the King's Will; our Laws have regard to human Infirmities, and will not put a Temptation upon Men to suffer themselves to be Witnesses in Matters, wherein they may damnify themselves in the Loss of Offices, if they happen to displease their Master in his Concern in the Case, by testifying clearly the Truth of it; they are not free, in the Judgment of our Laws, to speak the Truth without Fear, and for that Reason are not to be received by the Kingdom as Witnesses in that Case.

4. Our Laws will never allow or suffer any to be Witnesses in that Case, who were known to have Enmity or Prejudice of any kind upon any Account whatsoever to her Royal Highness, against whom most immediately that supposed Prince contended; and it is a legal, unanswerable and con-

conclusive Exception against any to have been received as Witnesses against her in that Behalf, that they were declared Enemies to her and the Protestant Religion, the Destruction whereof they were bound in Conscience to endeavour; and for that Reason such known Enemies to her Right of Succession to the Crown, that their Church had declared and decreed her Right, and the Right of all Protestants to any Authorities, to be absolutely forfeited to the Papists for Protestant Heresy; and all that were Roman Catholics, and believed their own Church, did judge her Royal Highness to be an excommunicated Heretick by their Church; and that all her Rights in Possession or Reversion were thereby confiscated: And that they were obliged by the Laws of their Church, in Conscience of their Religion, and by the Hope of Pardon for their Sins, to defeat and destroy by all Ways and Means in their Power, all her Pretensions to the Descent of the Crown upon her, and to assist to the investing the Right of Succession in a Roman Catholic. 'Tis therefore manifest,

5. That the *English* Papists were declared Enemies to her Royal Highness's Right in that Case, between her and the pretended Prince of *Wales*; and therefore by the Laws of *England* could not be Witnesses of that Fact. The Civil Law so fully concurs with our Common Law in rejecting Enemies to be

Witnesses in the Cause of their Enmity, that it denies to give Credit to what they testify in the Cause of their Enemy with their dying Breath, after they have received the Eucharist. That is the general Conclusion of the Doctors of the Civil Law, *Inimicus etiamsi in articulo mortis constitutus, & accipisset eucharistiam, repellitur testimonio causæ sui inimici.*

6. Our Laws will not allow that the Declaration or Testimony of his Majesty King *James*, or her Majesty, should be accepted and believed as lawful Proof that the pretended Prince of *Wales* was born of the Queen. 'Tis sufficient for us, that our Laws will not suffer our Kings to descend into the Place of Witnesses; they will not admit them to notify their own Knowledge of the Facts in any Case whatsoever, Criminal or Civil. And there is abundant Reason also from natural Equity and Civil Justice, that the Kingdom should not receive and rely upon the King's Affirmation about the Birth of that pretended Prince, their Majesties having publicly espoused his Cause for their own in all Respects. And none on Earth, Kings or Subjects, may justly expect, or be suffered to supply the Place of Witnesses in their own Case, since Civil Government was established; for if they might lawfully be their own Proof for their own Cause, they might as justly be the Judges of their own Proof, which in consequence would turn up the
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Foundations of Civil Government, one of its chiefest Intentions being to introduce a Course of Justice. That none might be their own Judges, the Laws of *England* in this Case are not dissonant from the Laws of other Kingdoms, and the most absolute Empires. The Civil Law receiv'd in most Christian Kingdoms that were adapted to absolute Government, had for one of its Principles, That *Principis verbum pro lege habendum est*, " the Word of " a Prince was to be taken for Law." We say, that Law never ascribed absolute Credit to the Prince's Affirmation of Matters of Fact, wherein the Subjects Rights were concerned. It passes for a Rule of Law in such Cases, that *Princeps indistincte non creditur*. The Emperor is not to be believed entirely without Limitations and Restrictions, in affirming Matters of Fact relating to his Subjects real Interests and Securities. The learned Doctors of that Law determine, that the Emperor's Affirmation that a Subject hath committed Treason, or Rebellion against him, ought not to be believed, or taken for Proof: They say expressly, *Regi fides non adhibetur, si attestatur talem fuisse proditorem*. Likewise, if he pretends and declares a Cause why he deprives a Subject, or Feudatory of his Interest, he is not to be believed; there must be Proof, and the Parties intended to be prejudiced must be cited and heard in their Defence. They generally resolve, that when a King asserts, or attests any thing to the Prejudice of another, he is not then to be

believed, especially when his Affirmation of himself is for his own Advantage, and to the Subjects Damage or Inconvenience. These are the Words, *Quando ex assertione Principis, ipse principaliter sentiret commodum, & subditi incommodum, tum ipsi Principi non creditur.* The Example of the Emperor *Henry VI.* of Germany, had a due Sense of the Justice and Reason of the Law herein, about the Year 1200; he did not expect that the People should believe the Affirmations of himself and his Empress *Constantia* about the Birth of a Prince, when there was a Rumour and Suspicion that *Constantia* was past the Age of Child-bearing, and feigned a great Belly; he gave the People plentiful Proof by Witnesses, more than Reason required: He prepared a most publick Place, wherein she remained expecting her Time of Delivery *ventre custodit*, with publick Watchers, or Keepers, that no supposititious Child might possibly approach her; and there in the Sight of all People of the City, and all the Matrons that would or could possibly approach her (none being excluded) she brought forth a Prince, that was afterward chosen Emperor, *Frederick II.*

Thus I have fairly and truly produced such Witnesses as were, and such as were not admitted to prove the pretended Birth of a Child of *James II.* by his Queen, on Sunday Morning between the Hours of Nine and Ten, June 10th, 1688. But as there were

were other natural, infallible Proofs to be observed by skilful Persons then present after this supposed Birth, I shall, for further Satisfaction, produce them that should have been, but never were known to any Body.

1. There never was in Readiness not so much as the usual Instruments of Midwives, whereupon they commonly place Ladies of Quality in their Time of Travail, that such Assistance might be given them by the Midwives and Matrons, as is not possible on their Knees, which is the common Posture of meaner Women; and least of all as they lay in Bed, which is seldom used, until the Length of the Travail, and Failures of Strength enforce it. There being many natural Reasons for the Posture of the Womens Bodies helping them in their Travail.

2. It had certainly been fit that a College of Physicians had been called to attend somewhere near to her Majesty, if she had not known there could be Need of them; and the being sure there could be no Hour of Danger to her in her feigned Travail, nor any sudden Need of Physicians Advice, or Help, to a strong, lively, supposed Prince, that was intended then to be brought forth. But as all the Preparations for her Majesty's supposed Time of Travail, discover'd to knowing and observing People, that there was no Reality in her Pretences made of a great Belly, so the Fiction and Fraud was made more manifest when the Trick came to be acted: For her

her Majesty lay in her Bed with all the Curtains close drawn, all that was provided belonging naturally to a Child new born, and intended to be used by them in the bringing forth that pretended Prince, being prepared and ready within the inner Chamber ; then her Majesty's feigned Travail began, and all those Things were by the Help of the Midwife, Mrs. *Labady*, and Mrs. *Tourain*, the Confederates, brought thro' the Door in the Wall at the Head of the Queen's Bed, and conveyed between the Sheets ; that is, a Child, and all that naturally attends the Birth of one ; that the Midwife and the Confederates seem'd very busy about her Majesty in the dark, none seeing, as they thought, what they did, and being afraid, as appear'd by the Midwife's Words afterwards, that the Child, which was prepared to sleep to prevent its crying before it was got into Bed ; they were forced to hasten the Queen's pretended Delivery, even beyond what was reasonably to be believed, notwithstanding all that could be said of the Lady of *Loretto*, or any other Saint's Assistance. Therefore the Queen's supposed Deliverance was in a very short Time.

But nothing appear'd in her Majesty like the real, natural Travail of a Woman in Child-bearing ; there were none of the natural Signs in her Majesty of being in Travail, which cannot be hidden ; there was no Appearance of an approaching Travail by various intermitting Pangs, usually very great, by the Infant's struggling to free itself from
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the Womb ; no Show of the Pains naturally increasing, as more of the Ligatures came to be broken or rent, whereby every Infant is safely retained in the Womb, until its full Growth and appointed Time ; there were no Signs of her Majesty's known Weakness in bearing such Pangs in her State of Body, debilitated with long, lingering Infirmities ; there were no Signs of a violent Eruption of an untimely Birth from the Womb of eight Months and four Days, as her Majesty then reported it to have been.

All that was feigned was suddenly dispatched, and the Midwife delivered something close covered to Mrs. *Labady*, which could be nothing but the Child that had been put in, and went with it together thro' the Door in the Ruel of the Bed into the next Room, in so great Haste, that it was not considered how plainly it did discover that it was a mere feigned counterfeit Fraud of the Queen's. Durst the Midwife quit her attending and assisting her Majesty in those Moments, when there was the greatest Necessity of her Skill and Office, and the most extreme Danger of her Majesty's Life by any Neglect of her, if she had really brought forth a Child, as they were obliged to pretend ?

Instead of a fair, open Freedom in showing that the Queen was really delivered of a Prince, which our Customs and Laws, and natural Equity required, that all those Works
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of Nature might have been seen, and testified by noble Matrons; the pretended Birth of a Prince, and all that they did about it, was done in the dark, with the Curtains close drawn round about the Bed, and under the Coverings of it, and none of either Sex permitted to see any Thing done about her Majesty, or her supposed Child, save only the Confederates: No others of those in the Bed-chamber, that drew as near as they might, were suffered to see what was taken out of the Bed; being something wholly covered, and immediately carried away by the private Door.

All hearkened after the common and most constant natural Sign of the Birth of a living Child, that is, its crying; but divers Lords of the Council, and others that were in the Bed-chamber, declared, that the crying of a Child was heard by none then present, when the Pretence was that a Child was born, nor would the Midwife at first say it was a Prince.

I have related no Circumstance, but what was most notoriously known, or could have been judicially proved before any impartial Court of Judicature, of what was acted about the pretended Prince in the Room from whence he was brought, and to which he was carried, before the Lords of the Council or any others were told that there was a Prince born. But it was certain to those then
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present, that during the whole fictitious Travail of the Queen, and a considerable Time after it, his Majesty kept those Lords of the Council that were called, not far from the Feet of the Bed that was close shut up, and they neither saw nor heard any Thing about the Birth of the supposed Prince, whereof they could be lawful Witnesses to the Kingdom. Yet the Actors of that whole Imposture had the Confidence to publish forthwith to the Kingdom by Authority, that those and many other Lords, and many Ladies of Quality, were present at the Queen's Delivery of that Prince; equivocating therein, like true Jesuits, and falsely insinuating to the People, that those Lords, and many Matrons of the Nobility had been such ocular Witnesses as our Laws require, of the Queen's being delivered of a Prince; whereas, in Truth, all that were not of the Confederacy waited to no more Purpose, than if they had been ten Miles off the Queen's Bed-chamber.

After long waiting, his Majesty left them, and returned into the inner Room, where was Mrs. *Labady*, and the Confidants, with the supposed Prince; and it was soon after said to the Lords, that a Prince being born, there was no more Need of them; whereupon several of them went away, and whatsoever was done in shewing the Child to those that staid, was not worthy to be repeated, as

it could be of no Manner of Use to the Kingdom.

But the most careful Enquiry was made after the Queen's supposed Delivery, whether there were any natural, demonstrable Signs in her Majesty that she had born a Child that had broke its Way by Violence into the World before Nature's Time, as she had affirmed ; the usual and necessary Consequences of such Force upon Nature in Women, of such Tenderness and Weakness as her Majesty, made every one expect to hear of her great Weakness, and Danger of her Life by a Fever, that commonly attends such untimely Births. Enquiry was made after the Danger of her Majesty's Breasts, by the usual Redundancy of Milk, because one had reported so long before that she had great Plenty of it in her Breasts. Proper Persons were imployed to learn what Woman had the Honour to draw her Majesty's Breasts, or whether any Applications had been made to repel or dry the Milk ; And also to ask after the good Progress of her Majesty in the natural Cleansings, that follow Child-bearing, and of her Strength in bearing those unavoidable Consequences, whereby all Women of her Majesty's Tenderness and Weakness are greatly debilitated.

But after the most diligent Enquiry, there never was any Appearance of any one natural

ral and unavoidable Effect of Child-bearing ; and consequently her Majesty did never conceive, nor bring forth that pretended Prince of *Wales*.

I have now given a faithful Abstract of many of the Circumstances which were collected in the Affair of that imaginary Prince, and will venture to affirm, that you cannot observe, from the Beginning to the End of it, one Footstep of sincere Plainness. All that was done therein, from the Time of the Queen's pretended Conception, to her supposed Delivery, shew'd Desires and Intentions to hide the Truth of those natural Events, which, by the Laws of *England*, by natural Justice, and by their own Honour and Interest, they were obliged to have made most demonstrable and proveable, by sufficient Witnesses, to all the Kingdom, if there had been any Truth in their Pretences.

Be pleas'd to remember, as 'tis before observed, that the going to *Bath*, and the Visit to St. *Winifred's Well*, and the Present made to the Lady, were Preparatives for a Report of the Queen's being with Child, and were all concluded upon about the End of *August*, and Beginning of *September*, 1687 ; and then it was their Highnesses, the Prince and Princess of *Orange's* Compliance with the Popish Design was despaired of.

The Abstract of Mr. *Steward's* Letters to

Mynheer *Fagel*, which were then printed, confirm these Memorials in that Matter. He was pardoned, and chosen by the King to have persuaded their Highnesses to a Consent, that the penal Laws and Tests should be repealed, which had been a full Establishment of Popery. In his first two Letters he endeavoured to persuade their Highnesses, that the King was resolved to preserve and observe the true Right of Succession to the Crown, and was very desirous of their Highnesses Consent and Concurrence in his Design, and troubled to find them so averse to it. In his next Letter of the same *July*, he pressed their Highnesses to be disposed to hearken to a well-chosen Informer to be sent by his Majesty to persuade their Concurrence with him; and he pressed extremely for a hasty Answer.

That new Counsels for setting up a supposititious Prince seem to have been begun then; for that Letter seem'd to threaten what was afterwards seen, *viz.* if their Highnesses refused; for he doubled his Assurance to him that was to solicit their Highnesses, that if they were obstinate, as they called it, it would be fatal to the Dissenters, and, he feared, productive of Ills then unheard of. And his Letter of *August* the 5th, seem'd to give their Highnesses their last Time to chuse the Settlement of Popery, or to resolve to be true to the Protestant Religion. He said, if their Highnesses
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did what the King desired, it was the best Service to the Protestants, the highest Obligation to his Majesty, and the greatest Advancement of their Interest, that they could think on; but, if not, then all is contrary. There could be no other Meaning in saying, *If their Highnesses refused, all was contrary*, save only this, that the Protestants should have no Mercy from the Papists; his Majesty would be so offended, that he would become their Highnesses Enemy, and it would be the Loss of their Highnesses greatest Interest that they could think on, which certainly could be no other than their just Expectancy of the three Kingdoms.

As these Letters threatened that the King would destroy their Highnesses greatest Interest if they refused, so the Attempt of it soon after appeared; for in *September* and *October* following the Resolutions were to publish the Queen was with Child, but before it was publicly declared, that was *October* the eighth. Mr. *Steward* says, he would use no more Arguments to their Highnesses, but he then relented their Highnesses loss of the Time of Compliance: Alas, said he, that Providence should not be understood! Then in *November* he speaks more plainly, notwithstanding their Highnesses Moderation towards the Papists, and their Liberty was shewn by Mynheer *Fagel's* Letter; he says, that all Hopes of their High-

Highnesses Concurrence in the King's Design was quite over, and Men were become as cold in it there, as their Highnesses were positive here. And upon the new Conference with the King, he not only shows the King's Dislike of that Letter, but says expressly, that their Highnesses Answer was too long delayed, and that the King was quite over the Matter.

There could be no other reasonable Construction of that, than that the King had then resolved by another way to prosecute the Popish Interest; and Time hath now shown and proved to the World, that the Way then resolved on was to set up that supposititious Prince, for a Popish Successor.

Those Letters, by the help of Time, show the Design when it was first in Embryo, and help to make a Judgment upon all the Circumstances that I have mentioned: And no doubt if an Evidence made up of all the Circumstances I have related, in their due Order and Connexion, were given to any impartial Judges, it would be judged as strong a presumptive Evidence as ever was given: And in the Proceeding of our Laws against Criminals, Judgment hath passed against the Lives of many upon far less Evidence; this being as full as the thing can possibly suffer, in the Case of this Kingdom.

But notwithstanding this plain circumstantial Evidence is sufficiently forcible and convincing
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to disinterested Persons, to prove that supposed Prince to be an Imposture, yet the length of Time since that horrid Juggle is so great, that very few are now alive that were then of Age sufficient to make a due Observation of those Times; and the false Tradition of that Birth hath been so industriously continued and propagated by all true Catholicks, that many otherwise very good Subjects of this Realm, have by their Artifices been deluded into a real Belief, that such a Prince was truly Born, and then was entitled to the Crown. Nor have I any other Hopes of inducing them to alter their present ill-grounded Faith, but by desiring them carefully to examine the Records, and Histories of *England* from the Reigns of King *James* the First, together with those private Memoirs (which are to be met with in the Studies of the Curious) relating to that grand Popish Scheme, and impartially compare them with what I have in these Sheets offered towards the removing their dangerous Errors; for sure I am, if they will but lay aside their Prejudices long enough to consider coolly of the Matter of Fact, they will be convinced they cannot, as Christians, any longer believe so palpable a Falshood.

My chief Motive for making this publick, being to show those of my Fellow Subjects, of whatsoever Denomination they call themselves, that if they will but do themselves and their Country the Justice to examine carefully into the
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the Histories of those past Times, they may be, at an easy Rate, self-convinced they have hitherto been imposed upon in a Matter of the greatest Consequence to both. And I think it a Duty incumbent upon me, as a Christian, a Protestant, and an unworthy Subject of *England*, to offer this my poor, but true and honest Endeavours towards convincing all that have Regard to Truth, of the great and continued Misfortunes that have and must attend that first damnable Design of establishing a Popish Successor to the Crown of this Realm; which will continue to be supported by all Papists by the same Arts and Devices, and with the same or like Policies, so long as they can find any sufficient Numbers in *England*, either ignorant or credulous enough to be deceived by them; and that they may be sure of gaining some, they have ever since, and ever will while our Laws permit them, take Care to have a sufficient Number of Roman Catholicks dispersed in different Parts and Occupations all over *England*; some of large Properties, others of large Trade, and many of other great Capacity to persuade; but all unanimously agreed to deceive and delude the Protestants in their Faith of all Sorts. But hitherto, by the Blessing of God upon this Nation, they have not prevailed further than at certain Times to create Jealousies and little Disturbances: And notwithstanding all their threatning and boasting

ing of their foreign Power, they have not prevailed beyond giving our Governors and Magistrates the Trouble of looking into their Designs, which they never can effect in any Degree, while *Englishmen* and Protestants look about them, and are determined to stand stoutly by one another. 'Tis not an Invasion from Abroad can ever hurt *England*, it must be their Dissensions and Divisions at home alone, that can hurt the *British* Constitution, which the Popish Emissaries are ever studious to foment. And sure no *Briton* that will give himself the Liberty to think, but will do his utmost to prevent what alone can injure the Liberty and Properties of his Fellow Subjects; surely no *Englishman* or Protestant will henceforth pursue such Measures as, herein are made apparent, paved the Way for that horrid intended Revolution; but with Heart and Hand endeavour to support that Great Prince now happily upon the Throne of his Ancestors, who so bravely struggled to support it against those mighty Powers, that attempted heretofore to set it on a Head of their own making.

Would but *English* Protestants duly reflect on the Blessings they now enjoy under His Majesty's mild and gentle Government, and compare their State with the Subjects of all the Catholick Princes, but more particularly their Neighbour Nation under the Tyranny of a *French* King, they could not forbear crying out, *Surely no Nation is so happy as ours!*